

**Rebuild Iowa Task Force
Infrastructure and Transportation Meeting
Held on July 29, 2008**

I. Introduction

- A. Thanks to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Major General Dardis.
- B. Task force composition (large Task Force with 26 members and 28 members of the Resource Group.)
- C. Infrastructure and Transportation includes
 - 1. Transportation Modes
 - 2. Water and wastewater
 - 3. Communications
 - 4. Utilities
 - 5. Landfills
 - 6. Public buildings
 - 7. Trails and parks

II. Very Preliminary Estimate of Damages

Expected to be the largest Public Assistance program in the history of Iowa. Total Public Assistance estimate by FEMA as of August 4th is \$798 million with emergency work estimated to be \$128.2 million.

A. Transportation Modes

1. Roads and Bridges

- a) Federal aid Routes - eligible for Emergency Relief from Federal Highway Administration at 100% for emergency repair and 80% (90% Interstate) for permanent repair.
 - i. State routes – \$15 million
 - ii. County and city routes - \$15 million
- b) Non-Federal aid Routes – eligible for FEMA funding at 75% (State requesting wavier to 90%) - estimated at over \$41 million

2. Railroads

- a) Short line – nearly \$23 million – not eligible except Boone and Scenic Valley RR

- b) Regional - \$45 to \$60 million – not eligible
- 3. Transit - \$53 million – facilities and equipment eligible for FEMA funding at 75% (90%?)
- 4. River navigation – None determined – there is a loss of revenue to freight traffic due to locks being closed
- 5. Airports – None determined – concern over possible loss of revenue
- B. Water and Wastewater – Information not broken out of Utilities category yet.
- C. Communications – Information not available
- D. Utilities – preliminary estimate of public facilities is over \$300 million.
- E. Landfills – Information not available – but some landfills taking as much as 21/2 years of rubbish from this disaster- also Cedar Rapids reopened an old landfill
- F. Public Buildings – over \$300 million - FEMA eligible at 75% (90%?) 80% of the public buildings in Cedar Rapids have been damaged at an estimated cost of \$600 million.
- G. Trails and Parks – FEMA eligible at 75% (90%?)
 - 1. Trails – estimated at \$10 to \$15 million
 - 2. Parks – no estimate available yet

III. Gaps and Unmet Needs

- A. Need better data on total damages
- B. Based on the very preliminary estimates the local share to match federal funds will probably exceed \$200 million
- C. The federal funding is reimbursement; therefore the state and locals must first pay for the work then bill for the federal share. This results in a Cash Flow issue of not having the upfront costs
- D. Flood damage results in lost revenue such as property taxes on housing and businesses. Also, the economic loss to businesses and consumers.

- E. Funding for extensive mitigation construction activities and to build impacted facilities to better and greener standards rather than just returning to pre-disaster conditions
- F. Funding for planning activities for a broader geographic area
- G. Need to allow mitigation activities outside of impacted communities corporate boundaries

H. Damaged uninsured floodplain facilities

1. \$500K deduction structures

2. \$500K deduction contents

IV. Recommendations

- A. Raise bond cap
- B. Give local governments authority to seek public approval for revenue diversification
- C. Use rainy day fund to provide interest free loans that will help cash flow and local match
- D. Investigate use of FEMA community assistance loan program
- E. Allow use of State Revolving Fund for sponsorship of projects in other jurisdictions
- F. Tax credits or waive sales tax on flood repair materials
- G. Streamline damage reporting systems to improve data collection
- H. Explore and expand work with federal delegation to leverage all possible resources.